

Kuvi language

Kuvi is a South-Central Dravidian language spoken in the Indian state of Odisha. The language is one of two spoken by the Khonds, with the other being the closely related and more dominant Kui language. According to the 2011 Indian census, there are around 155,000 speakers. The orthography is the Odia script. The grammatical structure of this language is comparable to other similar languages such as Kui which all fall under the classification of a Dravidian language.

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Background information

According to a study regarding population structure of tribal populations in central India, information was collected from the Koraput district of Odisha about the Kuvi Khonds. There were 325,144 people in the district according to the 1971 census. The Kuvi Khond are agriculturalists, and their physical appearance is similar to other Khond groups.^[3]

Phonology

Within a study done by A.G. Fitzgerald and F. V. P. Schulze, they spent some time interrogating Kuvi speakers in Araku in Andhra Pradesh. Their information came from a village called Sunkarametta. They also went to Gudari to study the Kuttiya dialect of Kui, and found a Kuvi speaker. It was found that the speakers location influenced their speech. The Kuvi speaker described himself as a Parja Kandh, so some of his dialect is abbreviated by P, while the dialect studied at Araku was indicated by Su. The following vowels and consonants are necessary for the language.^[4]

Kuvi	
Kuwi, Kuvinga, Kond, Khondi, Jatapu	
Native to	India
Region	Odisha, Andhra Pradesh
Ethnicity	Khonds
Native speakers	155,548 (2011 census) ^[1]
Language family	<div>Dravidian<ul style="list-style-type: none">South-Central<ul style="list-style-type: none">Gondi–Kui<ul style="list-style-type: none">Kuvi–Kui<ul style="list-style-type: none">Kuvi</div>
Language codes	
ISO 639-3	kxv
Glottolog	kuvi1243 (http://glottolog.org/resource/language/id/kuvi1243) ^[2]

Vowels

	Front	Back
Close	i	u
Close-mid	e	o
Open	a	

All vowels have short and long forms.

Consonants

		<u>Bilabial</u>	<u>Labiodental</u>	<u>Dental</u>	<u>Postalveolar</u>	<u>Retroflex</u>	<u>Palatal</u>	<u>Velar</u>	<u>Glottal</u>
<u>Stop</u>	<u>voiceless</u>	p		t̪		ʈ		k	ʔ
	<u>voiced</u>	b		d̪		ɖ		g	
<u>Affricate</u>	<u>voiceless</u>				tʃ				
	<u>voiced</u>				dʒ				
<u>Fricative</u>			v	s					h
<u>Nasal</u>		m		n̪		ɳ		ŋ	
<u>Approximant</u>				ɭ			j		
<u>Trill</u>				ɽ					
<u>Flap</u>						ɾ			

Grammar

All Central Dravidian languages are unified in gender and number distinctions. There is the distinction of masculine vs non-masculine (or feminine and non human) both in singular and plural. There is a simplex negative tense consisting of verb base + negative suffix + personal ending present in all Dravidian languages.^[5]

Kuvi	English
va:ha	having come
hi:ha	having given
to:sea	having shown

Kuvi language also contains a past negative tense with the structure- verb base + negative suffix + past suffix + personal ending.

Kuvi	English
hi: -ʔa-t-e?	I did not give.

Past tense ^[6]

Past Tense Examples	
English	Kuvi

I was	nānu mazzee
You were	nīnu mazzi
He was	evasi mazzesi
She was	ēdi mazze
We were	mambu mazzomi
You were	mīmbu mazzeri
They were	evari mazzeri

Present tense ^[6]

Present Tense Examples	
English	Kuvi
I am	nānu mai
You are	nīnu manzi
He is	evasi mannesi
We are	mambu mannomi
You are	mimbu manzeri
They are	evari manneri

See also

- Sathupati Prasanna Sree

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Further reading

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